

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE UÍBH FHAILÍ

**MINUTES OF MAY MONTHLY MEETING
OF OFFALY COUNTY COUNCIL**

**HELD IN FERBANE HERITAGE CENTRE, FERBANE
ON MONDAY, 16TH MAY 2016 AT 2.00 P.M.**

PRESENT:	Cllr. E. Dooley, Cathaoirleach (Presiding), Cllrs. N. Bourke, J. Carroll, J. Clendennen, N. Cribbin, D. Dolan, S. Dooley, E. Fitzpatrick, J. Foley, D. Harvey, B. Killeavy, J. Leahy, S. Maher, T. McKeigue, F. Moran, M. O'Reilly, P. Ormond and D. Owens.
APOLOGIES:	Cllr. L. Quinn
IN ATTENDANCE:	Ms. A. Delaney, Chief Executive; Mr. D. Conlon, H.O.F; Mr. F. Heslin, D.O.S; Mr. S. Murray, D.O.S; Mr. D. Kिरrane D.O.S; Ms. M. Cleary, Meetings Administrator; Mr. G. Bruton, A.O; Ms. S. O' Reilly, Arts Officer; Ms. M. Broome, Music Generation Facilitator; Ms. C. Clancy, Environmental Liaison Officer; Mr. P. McLoughlin, E.E.; and, Ms. F. Flaherty C.O.
VOTES OF SYMPATHY:	<p>Votes of sympathy were unanimously extended to the following:-</p> <p>Mrs. Imelda Heffernan, Ballydaly, Tullamore on the death of her husband, Joe;</p> <p>Mrs. Brigid Larkin, 29 Arden View, Tullamore on the death of her husband, Sean;</p> <p>Mr. Kevin Donovan, 5 Forest View, Cappaneale, Birr on the death of his father, Patrick;</p> <p>Mrs. Celestine McNeill, Bloomhill, Collins Lane, Tullamore on the death of her husband, Stephen;</p> <p>Mr. Liam Moran, Ross, Screggan, Tullamore on the death of his mother, Nellie;</p> <p>Mrs. Patricia Galvin, Gortnamona, Blueball, Tullamore on the death of her husband, Liam;</p> <p>Ms. Mary Smyth, Cooraclevin, Barna, Dunkerrin, Birr on the death of her mother, Elizabeth Kenneally;</p> <p>Ms. Mary McEvoy, New Houses, Cloneygowan, Tullamore on the death of her mother, Angela;</p> <p>Ms. Rose Byrne, Cloneyhurke, Portarlington on the death of her father, Tom Whelehan; and</p> <p>Mr. Pauric Browne, Fr. Paul Murphy Street, Edenderry on the</p>

<p>VOTES OF SYMPATHY: (cont'd)</p>	<p>death of his mother, Kathleen.</p> <p>The Chief Executive, on her own behalf and on behalf of the staff of the Council joined with the members in these votes of sympathy.</p>
<p>CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES:</p>	<p>On the proposal of Cllr. D. Dolan, seconded by Cllr. J. Clendennen, the members resolved to adopt the minutes of the April Monthly Meeting held in Áras an Chontae, Charleville Road, Tullamore, Co. Offaly on 18th April 2016.</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. T. McKeigue, seconded by Cllr. F. Moran, the members resolved to adopt the minutes of In-Committee Meeting re. Housing held in Áras an Chontae, Charleville Road, Tullamore, Co. Offaly on 18th April 2016.</p>
<p>MINUTES FOR NOTING:</p>	<p>The minutes of Corporate Policy Group Meeting held in Áras an Chontae, Tullamore, Co. Offaly on 21st March 2016 was noted by the members.</p>
<p>PART VIII FERBANE FIRE STATION:</p>	<p>Mr. F. Heslin, D.O.S. directed the members' attention to the report which had circulated with the Agenda. He recommended that the works be progressed as outlined in the report.</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. P. Ormond, seconded by Cllr. J. Leahy, the members resolved to adopt the Part VIII, report regarding the construction of a Fire Station at Lower Main Street, Gallen, Ferbane. They welcomed the development and acknowledged that it is a positive initiative for West Offaly. Cllr. E. Dooley, Cathaoirleach informed the meeting that the Council will now invite tenders and that he anticipated that construction will commence in early Autumn 2016.</p> <p>Cllr. D. Dolan noted that four of the Council's five Fire Stations had received upgrades and proposed that the Council make a submission to the relevant Department seeking funding for the upgrade of Clara Fire Station. This proposal was seconded by Cllr. F. Moran. Ms. A. Delaney, Chief Executive agreed to make a submission to the department.</p>
<p>MUSIC GENERATION PRESENTATION:</p>	<p>Ms. S. O'Reilly, Arts Officer gave a detailed presentation on the Music Generation Offaly Westmeath (MGOW) programme. She informed the meeting that the Department of Education and Skills, since January 2016, co-fund the programme. She informed the meeting that MGOW is the country's largest Music Generation project and that 27 musician's work with more than 5,000 children on a weekly basis.</p> <p>Ms. S. O'Reilly, Arts Officer drew the meetings attention to the booklet, '<i>A Framework for Collaboration</i>', which was circulated at the meeting. She noted that Local Authorities had collaborated with the Arts Council and jointly funded arts projects for the past 30 years. She advised that the agreement identifies shared principles, priorities and goals for the next 10 years.</p>

<p>MUSIC GENERATION PRESENTATION: (cont'd)</p>	<p>The members thanked the Arts Officer for her presentation on MGOW and acknowledged the merits of the scheme, noting in particular the national exposure that many of the participants were receiving. In responding to questions raised Ms. M. Broome, Music Generation Facilitator advised that the expansion of the scheme is contingent on resources and that she actively works in partnership with schools to support music programmes.</p> <p>Cllr. E. Dooley, Cathaoirleach in drawing the discussion to a conclusion acknowledged the significance of providing employment to 27 local musicians and wished MGOW well with their upcoming concert, Singfest, scheduled to be held in Athlone AIT in June.</p>
<p>CIVIC AMENITIES SITES UPDATE:</p>	<p>Mr. S. Murray, D.O.S., informed the meeting that the Council's three civic amenity sites had operated on a cost neutral basis since 2010. He advised that recent developments, including, the fall in the economic value of recyclable materials, and, the introduction of 'pay by weight' waste collection service in July, are resulting in a changed economic situation for the handling and treating of materials at civic amenity sites.</p> <p>Following a lengthy discussion it was agreed that Mr. S. Murray, D.O.S., would negotiate with the current civic amenity contractor, Oxygen, and seek to maintain their services until the year end. Mr. S. Murray, D.O.S., advised that a cost will arise for the provision of amenity sites in the future and that this will have to be considered during the preparation of the 2017 Budget. It was agreed to keep members informed of developments in this area.</p>
<p>OFFALY LITTER MANAGEMENT PLAN:</p>	<p>Ms. C. Clancy, Environmental Awareness Officer gave a comprehensive presentation on Offaly's Litter Management Plan, noting that it is available on the Council's website and in the libraries.</p> <p>The members thanked Ms. C. Clancy for her informative presentation and congratulated her and the Litter Wardens for their work and the support they provide to Tidy Town Committees. It was noted that Offaly have a high level of participation and success in the National Green Flag Schools initiative. Ms. C. Clancy agreed to relay their suggestions for enhancing the scheme to the national governing body. In responding to questions raised she advised that the Council adopts a reasonable approach to addressing littering issues but do pursue a number of cases in the Courts. She highlighted the different approach between pursuing a case under the Litter Acts and under the Waste Management legislation. The difficulties with using mobile CCTVs and in proving littering offences in court were noted. In drawing the matter to a conclusion the members stressed that it was only a change in culture that will effectively end littering.</p> <p>The Cathaoirleach thanked Ms. C. Clancy, Environmental Awareness Officer and the Environment staff for all their</p>

<p>OFFALY LITTER MANAGEMENT PLAN: (cont'd)</p>	<p>work and hoped that the proposed 'pay by weight' initiative will not lead to further littering in the countryside.</p>
<p>MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT:</p>	<p>Ms. A. Delaney, Chief Executive drew the members' attention to the Monthly Management Report.</p> <p>The Chief Executive advised that Mr. Simon Coveney TD, Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government had met with all the Chief Executives on Thursday, 12th May and had impressed on them the urgency in delivering the housing programme. She advised that the Council is preparing to submit a 6, 12 and 18 month programme of works to the Department.</p> <p>Ms. A. Delaney, Chief Executive informed the meeting that since the Management Report circulated the Council had received notification from the Department that €350,331.55 will be made available to address the December 2015 flooding clean up and response costs.</p> <p>In responding to questions raised Ms. A. Delaney, Chief Executive advised that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - work on identifying a suitable site for Edenderry Library was progressing; - the Council's planners are liaising with Department officials in an effort to secure funds for cycleways; - Housing staff are working with the voluntary sector in an effort to secure accommodation; - the revised speed limits in housing estates will commence on 1st July. <p>The Chief Executive agreed to keep traffic management at Wilmur Road, Birr under observation.</p> <p>It was agreed to include a presentation on the app developed to log public lighting faults, i.e., Deadsureapp at the next Council meeting.</p>
<p>CONFIRMATION OF ANNUAL MEETING DATE:</p>	<p>It was agreed to hold the Annual Meeting of Offaly County Council on Monday, 20th June 2016.</p>
<p>CORPORATE POLICY GROUP REPORT:</p>	<p>Cllr. E. Dooley, Cathaoirleach advised that the Corporate Policy Group met on 16th May 2016 to consider the Monthly Council Agenda and to approve the list of conferences and training courses for circulation.</p>
<p>NOTICES OF MOTION:</p>	<p>i. The following motion was proposed by Cllr. T. McKeigue, seconded by Cllr. J. Clendennen, and agreed by the members:</p> <p><i>"That Offaly County Council calls on the Minister for Justice to review the whole area of the Free Legal Aid System, i.e. persons income and how many times a person avails of the service and if found guilty to pay back the state part or all of the expense incurred from their income."</i></p>

**NOTICES OF MOTION:
(cont'd)**

It was agreed to also circulate the motion to all County Councils.

- ii. The following motion was proposed by Cllr. S. Maher and seconded by Cllr. B. Killeavy:

"Sinn Féin calls on Tesco Ireland to withdraw their threat to unilaterally cut pay and conditions of employment for Tesco workers and urges them to meaningfully engage with Mandate Trade union and to utilise the state's industrial machinery, the Labour court, if necessary and to fully implement its recommendation."

Cllr. T. McKeigue proposal that the wording of the motion be changed to read that *'This Council calls on....'* was agreed.

- iii. The following motion was proposed by Cllr. M. O'Reilly, seconded by Cllr. S. Maher, and agreed by the members:

"This Council calls on the in-coming Minister for Health to reverse the recent decision to remove €12 million from the state's mental health budget for 2016."

It was also agreed to circulate the motion to all County Councils.

- iv. The following motion was proposed by Cllr. B. Killeavy, seconded by Cllr. M. O' Reilly, and agreed by the members:

"This council calls on both the Finance Minister and the Minister for Transport to deal with the rising cost of motor insurance."

It was agreed to write to the relevant Ministers

- v. The following motion was proposed by Cllr. J. Clendennen, seconded by Cllr. S. Dooley, and agreed by the members:

"Offaly County Council investigate and report back to members on the maintenance, monitoring and enforcement of animal welfare and control in Offaly."

Mr. S. Murray, D.O.S., agreed to report to the members in relation to the Council's statutory obligations with regard to animal welfare.

- vi. The following motion was proposed by Cllr. J. Clendennen:

"In light of the impending suspension of domestic water charges, Offaly County Council propose that the suspension be extended to businesses, farmers and all

<p>NOTICES OF MOTION: (cont'd)</p>	<p><i>others paying commercial water rates.”</i></p> <p>Cllr. E. Dooley, Cathaoirleach proposed that the motion be amended to include ‘<i>to central government</i>’. Cllr. J. Clendennen agreed to the amendment.</p> <p><i>“In light of the impending suspension of domestic water charges, Offaly County Council propose to central government that the suspension be extended to businesses, farmers and all others paying commercial water rates.”</i></p> <p>The amended motion was seconded by Cllr. T. McKeigue and agreed by the members.</p>
<p>COMHDHÁLACHA:</p>	<p>On the proposal of Cllr. J. Leahy, seconded by Cllr. S. Dooley, the members noted and approved the conferences and training seminars as follows:</p> <p><u>CONFERENCES:</u></p> <p>Celtic Conferences “Auditing and Governance in Local Government” The Clonakilty Hotel, Co. Cork 10th – 12th June 2016 <i>It was agreed no member would attend.</i></p> <p>Celtic Conferences “Housing Grants and Schemes” The Clonakilty Hotel, Co. Cork 24th – 26th June 2016 <i>It was agreed no member would attend.</i></p> <p>The Institute of Professional Training – IPPB Consulting “A Programme for Local Government” Whites Hotel, Wexford 27th – 29th May 2016 <i>It was agreed no member would attend.</i></p> <p>The Percy French Festival 2016 6th – 8th July 2016 Castlecoote House, Co. Roscommon <i>It was agreed no member would attend.</i></p> <p>Sean Mac Diarmada Summer School 2016 “The Ideology of the 1916 Leaders – Has it been realised?” Kiltyclogher, Leitrim <i>It was agreed no member would attend.</i></p> <p><u>TRAINING:</u></p> <p>AILG Training Day Dundalk Details to be finalised <i>It was agreed that Cllrs. E. Fitzpatrick, D. Harvey and F. Moran would attend.</i></p>
<p>COMHFHREAGRAS:</p>	<p>The correspondences that issued with the Agenda were noted.</p> <p>Cllr. S. Dooley drew the meetings attention to the motion circulated by Donegal County Council, dated 26th April 2016,</p>

